

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 108. (Cancelled)

109. (New) A method, comprising:

- receiving, by a controller, information indicative of a product desired to be purchased by a buyer;
- searching, by the controller, for the desired product;
- determining, based upon the searching, by the controller, that the desired product is unavailable;
- providing, based on the determination of the unavailability of the product, the buyer an opportunity to commit to buy the product when it becomes available;
- receiving, by the controller, buyer offer information defining a commitment of the buyer to purchase the desired product when it becomes available, wherein the buyer offer information is indicative of:
 - a quality associated with the desired product;
 - a maximum price that the buyer commits to pay for the desired product;
 - a time limit defining an expiration date of the commitment; and
 - a credit card identifier associated with the buyer;
- storing the buyer offer information;
- receiving, subsequent to the storing, seller offer information indicative of a specific product offered for sale by a seller;
- matching, by the controller, upon the receipt of the seller offer information, the stored buyer offer information and the seller offer information;
- providing an indication of the match to the buyer; and
- automatically charging the buyer, based upon the credit card identifier associated with the buyer, for the specific product.

110. (New) A method, comprising:

- receiving information indicative of a product desired to be purchased by a buyer;
- searching, by a controller, for the desired product;

determining, by the controller, that the desired product is unavailable;
receiving buyer offer information defining a commitment of the buyer to purchase the desired product, wherein the buyer offer information is indicative of:
a quality associated with the desired product; and
a maximum price that the buyer commits to pay for the desired product;
storing the buyer offer information;
receiving seller offer information indicative of a specific product offered for sale by a seller;
matching, by the controller, upon the occurrence of a pre-determined event, the stored buyer offer information and the seller offer information; and
automatically charging the buyer for the specific product.

111. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the pre-determined event comprises at least one of:

- (i) an elapse of a pre-determined period of time; and
- (ii) a receipt of the seller offer information.

112. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the matching comprises:
identifying a minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller; and
determining, by the controller, that the minimum price associated with the specific product is less than or equal to the maximum price committed to by the buyer.

113. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the matching comprises:
identifying a minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller;
determining, by the controller, that the minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller is greater than the maximum price that the buyer committed to pay; and

calculating, by the controller, a gap amount by which the minimum price associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller exceeds the maximum price that the buyer committed to pay.

114. (New) The method of claim 113, further comprising:
identifying, by the controller, a subsidy associated with a subsidy amount equal to or greater than the gap amount.
115. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising:
offering the identified subsidy to the buyer.
116. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising:
offering the identified subsidy to the seller.
117. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the buyer offer information is further indicative of:
a quality class associated with the desired product.
118. (New) The method of claim 117, further comprising:
providing, to the buyer, based on the quality class associated with the product desired by the buyer, a suggested price for the desired product.
119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the suggested price for the desired product comprises a suggested range of prices.
120. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the matching comprises:
identifying a quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller; and
determining that the quality classes associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller and with the product desired by the buyer are equivalent.

121. (New) The method of claim 120, wherein the identification of the quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller is based on at least one of: (i) a product category, (ii) at least one product feature, (iii) a product retail price, (iv) an age associated with the specific product, (v) a manufacturer of the specific product, (vi) a product description, (vii) a product image, (viii) a product condition, and (ix) an accessory associated with the specific product.

122. (New) The method of claim 120, further comprising:
providing, to the seller, based on the quality class associated with the specific product offered for sale by the seller, a suggested price for the specific product.

123. (New) The method of claim 122, wherein the suggested price for the specific product offered for sale by the seller comprises a suggested range of prices.

124. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the buyer offer information is further indicative of:
a time limit defining an expiration date of the commitment.

125. (New) The method of claim 124, wherein the matching is prevented from occurring after the expiration date of the commitment.

126. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein the buyer offer information is further indicative of:
a payment identifier associated with the buyer.

127. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the automatic charging is based upon the payment identifier associated with the buyer.

128. (New) The method of claim 110, further comprising:
determining whether to perform the matching.

129. (New) The method of claim 128, wherein the determining whether to perform the matching is based upon at least one of: (i) a past popularity of the product desired by the buyer, (ii) a current popularity of the product desired by the buyer, and (iii) a predicted future popularity of the product desired by the buyer.

130. (New) The method of claim 128, wherein the determining whether to perform the matching is based upon at least one of: (i) a past popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller, (ii) a current popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller, and (iii) a predicted future popularity of the specific product offered for sale by the seller.

131. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein buyer offer information defines commitments from a plurality of buyers to purchase the desired product, further comprising:

selecting, by the controller, the buyer from the plurality of buyers.

132. (New) The method of claim 131, wherein the selecting is based upon priority rankings associated with each buyer from the plurality of buyers.

133. (New) The method of claim 132, wherein the priority rankings are based on at least one of: (i) priority payments made by one or more of the buyers from the plurality of buyers, (ii) transaction histories associated with one or more of the buyers from the plurality of buyers, (iii) a comparison of the seller offer information and the buyer offer information.

134. (New) The method of claim 110, wherein seller offer information is indicative of a specific product offered for sale by each seller from a plurality of sellers, further comprising:

selecting, by the controller, the seller from the plurality of sellers.

135. (New) The method of claim 134, wherein the selecting is based upon priority rankings associated with each seller from the plurality of sellers.

136. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the priority rankings are based on at least one of: (i) priority payments made by one or more of the sellers from the plurality of sellers, (ii) transaction histories associated with one or more of the sellers from the plurality of sellers, (iii) a comparison of the seller offer information and the buyer offer information.